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A DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF CORI PETITIONERS OF DOC INMATES

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Abstract

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B, Section 3 provides that crime victims, family members of homicide victims, and witnesses may request to be notified when the offender receives a temporary, provisional or final release from custody, or when an offender escapes from custody. Passage of this provision from the Victim Bill of Rights of 1984 led to a dramatic increase in the number of petitions for Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) filed with the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB). While the Department of Correction (DOC) had a CORI Notification program in place prior to 1984, the rapid growth in the number of CORI petitions on DOC inmates demonstrates the need for the Department to take a closer look at the CORI Notification program. This study presents a statistical profile of a sample of CORI petitioners of DOC inmates and of the offenders who are the subjects of these CORI petitions.

Findings from this study include:

- The number of new CORI petitions increased from 78 in 1984 to 1,190 in 1988.

- Seventy percent of the CORI petitioners are female, 25% are male, and 5% are households.

- Thirty-four percent of all CORI petitioners are crime victims. The second most frequently occurring category of petitioner is family member of homicide victim, which accounts for 24% of the petitioners.

- Seventy-one percent of the CORI petitioners were referred to the CORI program by District Attorneys' Offices and 29% by other agencies.

- Of the offenders who were subjects of CORI petitions, 96% were male and 4% were female.

- At the time of petition, 80 percent of the CORI subjects were in secure facilities.

- Eighty-eight percent of the CORI subjects were convicted of violent offenses including person offenses (55%) and sex offenses (33%).

- Twenty-seven percent of the CORI subjects are serving life sentences.

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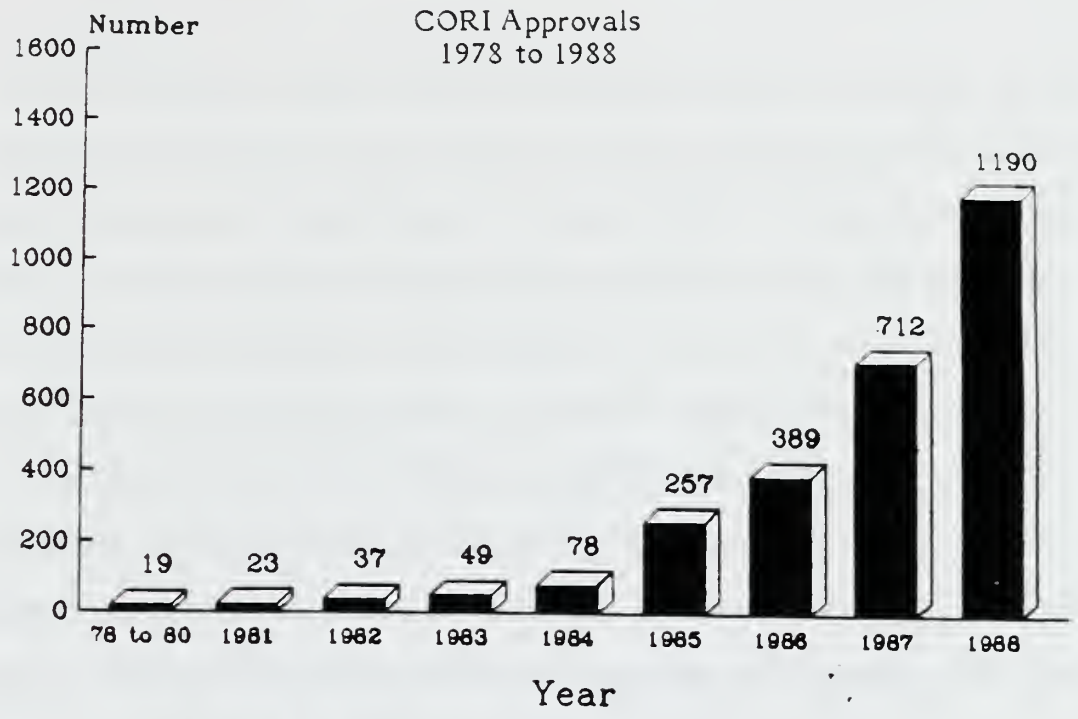
I. INTRODUCTION

Criminology research has been dominated by studies focusing on criminal offenders with only scant attention paid to the victims of crime. Until recently, a similar statement could be made concerning the scope of activities performed by the agencies which compose the criminal justice system. The past fifteen years have seen the growth of victim advocacy groups and the passage of legislation which has afforded certain rights to crime victims, witnesses and the family members of crime victims. In Massachusetts, these rights were incorporated into the Victim Bill of Rights in 1984 (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B).

Although most of this legislation addressed services which the police and District Attorneys' offices are required to provide to victims and witnesses while a case is being investigated and tried, one section of the legislation is especially relevant to the Department of Correction (DOC). This section provides victims with the opportunity to request to be notified of the convicted offender's temporary, provisional, or final release from custody, and when necessary, the offender's escape from custody. Prior to the enactment of the Victim Bill of Rights, the Department provided this service to victims upon request, under the authority of the laws covering Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) (MGL, Ch.6, Section 172). Passage of the Victim Bill of Rights led to a dramatic increase in certifications for CORI clearance during the past 5 years.

Figure 1 shows the number of CORI petitions approved by the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) from 1978 to 1988. The number of CORI approvals grew in each year since passage of the Victim Bill of Rights in 1984. From 1984 to 1985 the number of newly approved CORI petitions grew by 229%, and from 1986 to 1988 the number of newly approved CORI petitions continued to grow at an annual rate of 67%.

Figure 1.



Source: Criminal History Systems Board

The objective of this study is to present a demographic description of the CORI petitioners of DOC inmates and of the offenders who are the subjects of these CORI petitions. This report consists of 5 sections. The first two sections contain overviews of the CORI certification and CORI notification processes. In the third section, the research questions are identified and the research methods are discussed. The fourth section contains the results of the demographic analyses, and a summary of the findings are presented in the conclusion.

II. CORI CERTIFICATION

Two laws govern access to criminal offender record information: the CORI law (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 167-178), and the Victim Bill of Rights (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B). The Security and Privacy Council, and the Criminal History Systems Board are the state agencies responsible for overseeing implementation of the sections of these laws that concern access to criminal offender record information. In order to request access to CORI, citizens submit an application to the CHSB (See Appendix A). Once the application is approved, the petitioner shall "be informed by the appropriate custodial authority whenever the defendant receives a temporary, provisional or final release from custody or whenever the defendant escapes from custody" (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B, Section 3(a)).

The content of a CORI notification is the same regardless of whether the individual applied under the provisions of the CORI law or under the provisions of the Victim Bill of Rights, but subtle differences do exist based on the law under which an individual applies. First, the Victim Bill of Rights provides the opportunity to be CORI certified for distinct categories of individuals: specifically, victims, parents and guardians of minor victims, family members of homicide victims, and witnesses. This differs from the CORI law which provides for a general grant of access for offender release information called a Citizen Initiated Petition (CIP). An individual applying under the CIP provisions does not have to be a victim, witness, or family member of a victim, but can be any person who can document a reasonable fear of harm from the incarcerated offender. The second difference between CIP certifications, and certifications under the Victim Bill of Rights is the duration of the certification. CIP certifications are valid for as long as the reasonable fear of harm exists, while certifications under the Victim

Bill of Rights are valid only for the duration of the sentence that the offender is serving for crimes that pertain to the petitioner.

III. CORI NOTIFICATION

In order to meet the notification requirements established in the Victim Bill of Rights, the DOC has established a CORI notification process, 103 DOC 407 - CORI Certifications. Briefly, this policy outlines the procedures to be used by institutional records staff to indicate that a CORI petition exists on a given inmate, and then it provides instructions on how to notify a petitioner of changes in an inmate's custody status. CORI petitioners are to be notified by the DOC whenever the CORI subject transfers to a facility with a security rating lower than medium, is discharged from custody, receives a furlough and/or escorted furlough, escapes, or participates in pre-release activities. Notifications of transfers and releases are to be made by the superintendent or his/her designee by telephone prior to the transfer or release, and are then followed up by letter for documentation purposes. Escape notifications are to be made by the facility superintendent or designee immediately after it has been established that an escape has occurred. If the CORI petitioner cannot be reached by phone, the superintendent or designee shall notify the local police department where the petitioner resides and request that the police department inform the petitioner that the escape has occurred.

IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH METHODS

The goal of this study is to answer the questions "Who are the CORI petitioners?" and "Who are the offenders that are the subjects of the CORI petitions?" These questions are answered by presenting the results of an analysis of a 10% sample of 2518 CORI and Citizen Initiated Petitioners whose applications were approved from the beginning of the program in 1978 to December 31, 1988. Frequency tables are used in order to describe how the petitioners from the sample are distributed according to the following characteristics:

- o Sex;
- o age;
- o residence location;
- o type of petitioner (The different types of petitioners are Victim, Witness, Citizen Initiated Petitioner, Parent or Guardian of Victim under 17, and Family Member of Homicide Victim.);
- o petitioner relationship to victim;
- o resource for obtaining CORI (The different client resources for obtaining CORI certification include district attorneys' offices, DOC, and Parole Board Victim Services Unit.); and,
- o the nature of the crime committed by the CORI subjects.

In addition to presenting a descriptive analysis of the characteristics of the petitioners, this project will also contain a brief demographic description of the offenders who are the subjects of the CORI petitions. The offender characteristics included in this analysis are sex, age, offense, sentence, security level at time of petition, current security level and parole eligibility date.

A. SAMPLE SELECTION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

The sample was obtained from the January 3, 1989 list of CORI petitioners and CORI subjects supplied to the DOC Records Room by the CHSB. This list

contains the following information for all CORI petitions since the CHSB began approving CORI applications in 1978: petitioner's name, CORI subject's name, and date that the petition was approved by the CHSB. As of January 3, 1989; there were 2518 individuals and households holding 2754 CORI petitions approved by the CHSB.[1] The sample was selected by using the version of this list that is in alphabetical order by petitioner name, and including every tenth petitioner in the sample. In cases where the selected petitioners hold CORI petitions on more than one CORI subject, all of the petitions were included in the sample. In this way it was possible to include the number of CORI subjects for each petitioner in the analysis. Since the intent of this study is to provide a demographic description of CORI petitioners of DOC inmates, sixty-four petitioners were eliminated from the sample because the offenders who are the subjects of these petitions were sentenced to county facilities and not to the Massachusetts DOC.

This selection process yielded 210 unique petitioner-subject pairs involving 187 CORI petitioners and 203 CORI subjects. The 187 petitioners include 167 who hold petitions on only one DOC inmate, 17 who hold petitions on two DOC inmates, and 3 who hold petitions on 3 DOC inmates. In the analysis, each petitioner is included as a single case, regardless of the number of CORI petitions held. For the CORI petitioners, selection among the multiple petitions was made by using the order in which the relevant CORI subjects' names appeared on alphabetized lists. Of the twenty petitioners holding petitions on 2 or more DOC inmates, there were eighteen cases where the petitioner information was identical in each record

1 The number of CORI petitions exceeds the number of CORI petitioners because some petitioners have CORI petitions on more than one offender. Similarly, the number of CORI petitions exceeds the number of CORI subjects because some offenders are the subjects of more than one petition.

associated with that petitioner. In the two remaining cases, differences appeared in the petitioners' records because each petitioner was a victim of one CORI subject and a witness of another CORI subject. In both cases, the records used in the petitioner analysis are those where the petitioners were witnesses.

The 210 CORI petitions involve 203 unique CORI subjects. These 203 offenders include 196 who appear as the CORI subject on only one petition from the sample, and 7 who appear as the CORI subjects on two petitions from sample.[2] In the results of the CORI subject analysis, each offender is included as a single case, regardless of the number of petitions for which each offender is listed as a subject. For the seven cases where the offenders are the subjects of more than one petitioner, the first petition approved by the CHSB was included in the analysis.

B. DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

Data on the petitioners were collected from the CORI applications which the petitioners filed with the CHSB. (A copy of this application can be found in Appendix A.) This information was recorded on data entry forms, using one form for each unique petitioner-subject pair. (A copy of the data entry form can be found in Appendix B.) The information recorded on the data entry forms was verified by reviewing the Central Office inmate folders of the individuals named as the subjects of the CORI petitions. Information on the offenders included in this study was supplied by the DOC inmate data base.

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2. This information is provided only to describe the sample. It is <u>not</u> appropriate to use this information to make inferences about the number of petitioners per CORI subject because the sample was drawn by using petitioners as the selection unit. While all DOC CORI subjects for a given petitioner have been included in the analysis, it <u>cannot</u> be said that the analysis includes all CORI petitioners for a given CORI subject.

For the variable, type of petitioner, each petitioner was assigned to only one category, and coding was performed by selecting the first appropriate response from the following heirarchy:

1. Victim
2. Witness
3. Family Member of Homicide Victim
4. Parent/Guardian of Minor Victim
5. Citizen Initiated Petitioner
6. Unknown

Therefore, if a petitioner was both a victim and witness of a multiple victim crime committed by the offender, the petitioner would be categorized as a victim only. As a second example, parents of homicide victims younger than 18 years old were coded as family members of homicide victims, rather than as parents of minor victims.

Two offense variables are used in this study: offense relevant to the petitioner, and governing offense. In most cases, the offense relevant to the petitioner is the same as the CORI subject's governing offense (that offense which carries the longest sentence of all the crimes for which an offender is incarcerated). In a few cases, the offense relevant to the petitioner was not the same as the governing offense. For example, if a CORI subject was convicted of both armed robbery and first degree murder (governing offense) and the CORI petitioner is the victim of the armed robbery, then the offense relevant to the petitioner is armed robbery and the offender's governing offense is first degree murder.

Analysis of the data was performed on a personal computer using SPSS PC software.

V. RESULTS

There are two parts to the results section of this study. The first part presents a demographic profile of the CORI petitioners who were included in the sample, and the second part presents a demographic profile of the offenders who were included in the sample.

A. PETITIONER CHARACTERISTICS

A demographic profile of CORI petitioners will be presented by showing how the petitioner sample is distributed according to the following characteristics: sex, age, residence location, petitioner type, petitioner relationship to victim, agency which assisted petitioner in applying for CORI, and the offense relevant to the petitioner.

1. Sex

Table 1 shows that the petitioner sample is 25% male, 70% female and 5% are in the names of households. Victimization rates indicate that males face a greater risk of being victims of violent crimes than do females,[3] and therefore, one may expect that more CORI petitioners would be male than female. Two explanations can account for this discrepancy: (1) only some CORI petitioners are crime victims. CORI petitioners include family members of the victim, witnesses, and other individuals that can document a reasonable fear of the offender, as well as victims, and (2) many victims of violent crimes do not request CORI certification. Thus, while females are victims of violent crimes less frequently than males, female victims may seek assistance from criminal justice agencies (such as requesting CORI certification) more frequently than male victims.

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3 Patsy A. Klaus, Carol G. Kaplan, Michael R. Rand and Bruce M. Taylor, "The Victim", Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice, 2nd Edition, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, March 1988, pp. 22-38.

2. Age

Table 1 shows the age distribution of the CORI petitioners from the sample. The mean age of petitioners in the sample is 38 and the median is 35. While the ages of CORI petitioners in the sample ranged from 18 to 86, the age categories with the largest representation are 20s, 30s and 40s.

3. Residential Location

The geographical distribution by county of CORI petitioners from the sample can be found in Table 1. More than 50% of the petitioners from the sample live in Eastern Massachusetts (Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk or Suffolk Counties), 18% live in Worcester County or further west (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden or Hampshire Counties) and 17% live in Southeastern Massachusetts (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket or Plymouth Counties). Eleven percent of the petitioners from the sample live outside of Massachusetts.

4. Type of Petitioner

Table 1 presents the distribution of petitioners from the sample by type of petitioner. The most frequently occurring petitioner type is victim which constitutes 34% of the sample. In the order of frequency of occurrence in the sample, the other types of petitioners are family members of homicide victims (24%), citizen initiated petitioners (19%), parents or guardians of victims (13%) and witnesses (9%).

5. Petitioner Relationship to Victim

Not all CORI petitioners are victims of the offense. A frequency distribution of the CORI petitioners' relationships to the crime victims is included in Table 1. Among the petitioners, 34% are the victims of the offenses, 25% are parents or

guardians of victims, and 17% are citizen initiated petitioners and witnesses who did not know the victim at the time of the offense. The remaining 24% of the petitioners from the sample are distributed among the following categories: brothers and sisters of the victim, children of the victim, friends of the victim, members of the victim's extended family, spouses, victimless offenses and a few cases where the information available was insufficient for identifying the relationship between the petitioner and the victim.

6. Agency that Provided CORI Application

In order to become a CORI petitioner an individual must apply for CORI certification by completing the application that is attached as Appendix A. In most cases, the citizen receives this application from a victim/witness advocate at the prosecuting district attorney's office shortly after the offender has been sentenced. The other agencies from which citizens may obtain the application for CORI certification are the DOC, the Parole Board Victim Services Unit and the Criminal History Systems Board. Table 1 shows how the petitioners from the sample are distributed according to the resource agency from which they obtained the CORI application. Seventy-one percent of the petitioners received CORI applications from the district attorneys' offices that prosecuted their cases. Among the D.A. offices, Middlesex County provided the most CORI applications to the petitioners in the sample (36 or 19%), followed by Suffolk County with 20 (or 11%). Both Bristol County and Norfolk County provided applications to 13 (or 7%) of the petitioners from the sample, while Worcester County and Plymouth County D.A. offices each provided applications to 11 (or 6%) of the petitioners from the sample. Twenty-eight (or 15% of the) petitioners received their CORI applications from one of the following D.A. offices: Essex County, Northwestern District, Cape and Islands District, Berkshire County or Hampden County. Twenty-nine percent

of the petitioners from the sample received their applications from agencies other than district attorneys offices: 29 (or 15%) from CHSB, 20 (or 11%) from the Parole Board, and 6 (or 3%) from the DOC.

7. Offense (relevant to petitioner)

The 187 petitioners from the sample hold CORI petitions on DOC inmates who have been incarcerated for committing more than 25 different types of offenses. These offenses were grouped into six categories: homicides, non-homicide person offenses, sex offenses, property offenses, drug offenses and other offenses. Among the CORI petitioners, the most frequently occuring offense category is sex offenses (33%), followed by homicides (31%), and non-homicide person offenses (22%). The remaining 14% are for property, drug and other offenses.

Table 2 provides a breakdown which shows the number of each type of petitioner within each offense category. Petitioners of CORI subjects who have committed homicides are most frequently family members of homicide victims. Occasionally, witnesses and citizen initiated petitioners hold CORI certifications on homicide offenders. Most of the petitions held on non-homicide person offenders are held by the victims of the offense. Other types of petitioners who hold CORI petitions on non-homicide person offenders are citizen initiated petitioners, and in a few cases, witnesses, and parents of the victim. The two petitioner categories that hold most of the CORI petitions on sex offenders are the victims of the offense and the parents of the victims. Sometimes, witnesses and citizen initiated petitioners file CORI petitions on sex offenders. Among non-violent offenders (property, drug, and other), most of the petitioners are victims or citizen initiated petitioners, with a few petitions filed by parents or witnesses.

Table 1

Selected Characteristics
of CORI Petitioners

Petitioner Characteristic	N	%
Sex		
Male	46	25
Female	132	70
Household	9	5
Total	**187**	**100**
Age		
Under 20	5	3
20-29	27	14
30-39	43	23
40-49	22	12
50-64	10	5
65 and Older	6	3
Not Available	74	40
Total	**187**	**100**
Residential Location (County)		
Barnstable	2	1
Berkshire	2	1
Bristol	13	7
Dukes	1	0
Essex	15	8
Franklin	4	2
Hampden	8	4
Hampshire	3	2
Middlesex	48	26
Nantucket	0	0
Norfolk	16	9
Plymouth	16	9
Suffolk	21	11
Worcester	17	9
Northeast US	11	6
Other US	10	5
Total	**187**	**100**
Type of Petitioner		
Victim	63	34
Witness	16	9
Citizen Initiated Petitioner	36	19
Parent/Guardian	25	13
Family-homicide victim	45	24
Unknown	2	1
Total	**187**	**100**

Petitioner Characteristic	N	%
Relationship to Victim		
Petitioner is Victim	63	34
Parent/Guardian	46	25
Sibling	10	5
Child	10	5
Spouse	2	1
Extended Family	3	2
Friend	8	4
District Attorney	1	0
Unknown Relationship	8	4
No Relationship	31	17
No Victim	5	3
Total	**187**	**100**
Agency that Provided CORI Application		
District Attorneys' Offices		
Berkshire	3	2
Bristol	13	7
Cape & Islands	6	3
Essex	8	4
Hampden	3	2
Middlesex	36	19
Norfolk	13	7
Northwestern	8	4
Plymouth	11	6
Suffolk	20	11
Worcester	11	6
Sub-Total	**132**	**71**
Other Agencies		
Dept. of Correction	6	3
Parole Board	20	11
CHSB	29	15
Sub-Total	**55**	**29**
Total	**187**	**100**

Table 2

Offense Category by Petitioner Type

Offense Category by Petitioner Type	N	%
Homicide		
Witness	6	3
Citizen Initiated Petitioner	7	4
Family	45	24
Unknown	1	0
Sub-Total	**59**	**31**
Non-homicide Person		
Victim	29	15
Witness	2	1
Citizen Initiated Petitioner	10	5
Parent/Guardian	1	1
Sub-Total	**42**	**22**
Sex		
Victim	23	12
Witness	7	4
Citizen Initiated Petitioner	8	4
Parent/Guardian	23	12
Unknown	1	1
Sub-Total	**62**	**33**
Property, Drug & Other		
Victim	11	6
Witness	1	1
Citizen Initiated Petitioner	11	6
Parent/Guardian	1	1
Sub-Total	**24**	**14**
Total	**187**	**100**

B. CORI SUBJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of CORI subjects that will be presented are sex, age (on 12/31/89), governing offense, sentence type, minimum sentence length, maximum sentence length, security level on the petition approval date, security level as of September 1989, and parole eligibility date.

1. Sex

Table 3 shows that 96% of the CORI subjects from the sample are male, and 4% are female.

2. Age

The age distribution of the CORI subjects is shown in Table 3. The youngest CORI subject in the sample is 19 years old, while the oldest is 73. The mean age is 34.5, and the median is 32. The age category 30-39 accounts for 74 (or 37%) of the CORI subjects from the sample, followed by 26-29 which accounts for 43 (or 21%) of the petitioners in the sample. The category 20-25 year olds accounts for 16% of the sample, and 40-49 year olds account for 15%. Ten percent of the CORI subjects are 50 or older, and 1% are under 20.

3. Governing Offense

Table 3 shows the distribution of the CORI subjects by offense category. Eighty-eight percent of the CORI subjects were committed to the DOC for violent offenses (person offenses and sex offenses) while 12% of the CORI subjects were committed for non-violent offenses (property, drug and other offenses).

4. Minimum Sentence Length

Table 3 shows the minimum sentence length distribution of the CORI subject sample. Nineteen percent of the CORI subjects have reformatory sentences, and therefore have no minimum sentence length, while 81% have Cedar Junction sentences. Among the CORI subjects with Cedar Junction sentences, 69 (or 34%) have minimum sentences of less than 10 years, 41 (or 20%) have minimum sentences of more than 10 years, and 54 (or 27%) have minimum sentences of life.

5. Maximum Sentence Length

The maximum sentence length distribution of the CORI subject sample shows that approximately 42% of the CORI subjects in the sample have maximum sentences of 12 years or less, 31% have maximum sentences of more than 12 years, and 27% have maximum sentences of life.

6. Security Level on Date of CORI Petition

The majority (63%) of the CORI subjects from the sample were housed in medium security institutions on the CORI approval date. The second most frequent security level was maximum security, which accounts for 13% of the CORI subjects from the sample. Eleven percent of the CORI subjects were housed in minimum or pre-release facilities on the CORI approval date. Four percent were at Bridgewater State Hospital or at the Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons, and the remaining 9% were distributed among the following categories: house of correction, out-of-state, parole, no custody and escape.

7. Current Security Level

Table 3 presents information on the security level status of the CORI subjects in the sample on September 24, 1989. Medium security has the highest

percentage of CORI subjects (37%). Seventeen percent of the CORI subjects have no custody, and 14% are on parole. Maximum security and lower security facilities each account for 10% of the CORI subjects in the sample. The remaining CORI subjects are distributed among the following categories: Bridgewater State Hospital, Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons, county houses of correction, and out-of-state.

8. Parole Eligibility Date

Table 3 shows the CORI subject sample distribution by year of parole eligibility date. The parole eligibility date has already passed for 27% of the sample. Thirty-three percent of the sample have parole eligibility dates between 1989 and 1992, 25% have parole eligibility dates between 1993 and 2015, and the remaining 15% do not have parole eligibility dates.

Table 3

Selected Characteristics of CORI Subjects

Offender Characteristic	N	%
Sex		
Male	194	96
Female	9	4
Total	**203**	**100**
Age		
Under 20	2	1
20-25	32	16
26-29	43	21
30-39	74	37
40-49	31	15
50 and Older	21	10
Total	**203**	**100**
Governing Offense		
Homicide	70	34
Non-homicide Person	43	21
Sex	66	33
Property, Drug and Other	24	12
Total	**203**	**100**
Minimum Sentence		
Less than 5 Years	21	10
5-9 Years	48	24
10-19 Years	35	17
20 Years or More	6	3
Life	54	27
No Minimum Sentence	39	19
Total	**203**	**100**

Offender Characteristic	N	%
Maximum Sentence		
Less than 6 Years	24	12
6-12 Years	61	30
13-19 Years	24	12
20 Years or More	40	19
Life	54	27
Total	**203**	**100**
Parole Eligibility		
1988 or Earlier	55	27
1989-1992	66	33
1993-1999	39	19
2000-2015	13	6
No P.E. Short Sentence	1	1
No P.E. Lifer	29	14
Total	**203**	**100**

Table 3

(Continued)

Offender Characteristic	N	%	Offender Characteristic	N	%
Security Level On Petition Date			**Current Security Level (as of September 1989)**		
Maximum	27	13	Maximum	21	10
Medium	126	63	Medium	75	37
Minimum	8	4	Minimum	5	3
Minimum-Pre-Release	8	4	Minimum-Pre Release	11	5
Pre-Release & Halfway House	6	3	Pre-Release & Halfway House	5	3
House of Correction	5	3	House of Correction	8	4
Bridgewater SH & TC	9	4	Bridgewater SH & TC	9	4
Out of State	3	1	Out of State	4	2
Parole	2	1	Parole	29	14
No Custody	4	2	Parole-Out of State Facility	1	1
Escape	4	2	No Custody	35	17
Total	**203**	**100**	**Total**	**203**	**100**

VI. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to provide the DOC with some basic information on CORI petitioners and CORI subjects. A 10% sample of CORI petitioners was used in order to describe how CORI petitioners are distributed according to the following characteristics:

- o sex;
- o age;
- o residence location;
- o type of petitioner (i.e., Victim, Witness, Citizen Initiated Petitioner, Parent or Guarian of Victim under 17, and Family Member of Homicide Victim);
- o petitioner relationship to victim;
- o resource for obtaining CORI; and
- o nature of the crime committed by the CORI subjects.

This study also provided demographic information on the offenders who are the CORI subjects of the sampled petitioners. The offender charactistics that were included in this analysis are sex, age, offense, sentence, security level at time of petition, current security level, and parole eligibility date.

The results from this study reveal that CORI petitioners include individuals from all segments of society, both males and females; young, old, and middle aged. Frequently, petitioners are crime victims or members of crime victims' families; but several cases also exist where petitioners have no relationship to the crime victims. This study also found that CORI petitioners can be found all over the state even though they are more heavily concentrated in Eastern Massachusetts than in other regions of the state.

The information presented in this study concerning CORI subjects indicates that, like CORI petitioners, they too exhibit a broad range of characteristics. Most of the CORI subjects in this study are males, but a few are females. The average age is 34.5, but 10% are older than 50. Most CORI subjects have been convicted for commiting violent offenses, but some have convictions for non-violent offenses. Twenty-seven percent of the sampled CORI subjects are serving life sentences, but thirty-four percent are serving minimum sentences of less than 10 years.

APPENDIX A

CORI APPLICATION FORM

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Public Safety
Criminal History Systems Board
1010 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
(617) 727-0090

MICHAEL S DUKAKIS
Governor

CHARLES V BARRY
Secretary

CHARLES V BARRY
Chairman

FRANCIS J CARNEY JR
Executive Director

APPLICATION FOR NOTICE OF IMPENDING RELEASE OR ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY UNDER THE CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION ("CORI") LAW

ELIGIBILITY

1. Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 258B, §3(a), requires that victims, witnesses, and in the case of homicide, family members shall, at their request, be informed by the appropriate custodial authority whenever the defendant receives a temporary, provisional, or final release from custody or escapes.

2. The Security and Privacy Council and Criminal History Systems Board, which implement Chapter 258B, will also certify for notification any person who reasonably believes that his or her or anyone else's physical safety is jeopardized by an inmate. If you are applying under this "Citizen Initiated Petition (CIP)," please use the back of this form to explain why you believe the inmate might harm you or someone else.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST USE THE FORM BELOW

a) Inmate Name_____ Alias(es)_____

Date of Birth____/____/____ SS#_____ Race_____ (if available)

Charges_____

Sentence_____ Date of Sentencing_____

Last known place of incarceration_____

b) Applicant Name_____ SS#_____ Date of Birth____/____/____

Address_____ Home Telephone_____

_____ Work Telephone_____

c) Applying as _____ Victim _____ Witness _____ CIP (see #2 above) _____ Parent or Guardian of victim under 17 _____ Family member of homicide victim

d) If Applicant is not the victim:

Victim name_____ Date of Birth____/____/____

Applicant's relationship to victim_____

e) Applicant's Signature_____

f) Victim/Witness Advocate_____ Telephone_____ County_____

APPENDIX B

DATA ENTRY FORM

MA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DESCRIPTION OF VICTIM SERVICES

DATA ENTRY FORM

I. CORI SUBJECT RECORD IDENTIFICATION

CARD CONTROL — 1 2 3

Commitment Institution and Number — 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Inmate Name:_____

Aliase(s):_____

Last Name - First Four Letters — 11 12 13 14

Furlough Date (Begin Summary) — 15 16 17 18 19 20

Furlough Date (End Summary) — 21 22 23 24 25 26

II. PETITIONER INFORMATION

Petitioner Name: _____
Petitioner ID # — 27 28 29 30

Sex: []1. Male []2. Female []3. Household — 31

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) — 32 33 34 35 36 37

Mailing Address
City, State: _____
City, State Geographic Code — 38 39 40

Type of Petitioner
[]1. Victim []2. Witness []3. CIP
[]4. Parent/Guardian of Victim Under 17
[]5. Family Member of Homicide Victim — 41

DATA ENTRY FORM (CONTINUED)

Positions 42 - 50 are to record information about the victim when the petitioner is someone other than the victim. Use missing value codes when the petitioner is the victim.

Sex of Victim
[]1. Male []2. Female
[]3. More than one victim, and group includes both male and female victims
[]4. Petitioner is the victim

___
42

Victim's Date of Birth
(Use 000000 if petitioner is the victim.)

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
43 44 45 46 47 48

Petitioner's relationship to victim
[]1. Parent of Victim
[]2. Guardian of Victim
[]3. Sibling of Victim
[]4. Child of Victim
[]5. Spouse of Victim
[]6. Member of Victim's Extended Family
[]7. Friend of Victim
[]8. Petitioner is employed by prosecuting DA
[]9. No relationship to Victim
[]0. Petitioner is the Victim

___ ___
49 50

Agency which obtained CORI Certification for petitioner
District Attorney Victim/Witness Assistance Program
[]1. Berkshire District
[]2. Bristol District
[]3. Cape & Islands (Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket)
[]4. Essex District
[]5. Hampden District
[]6. Middlesex District
[]7. Norfolk District
[]8. Northwestern District (Hampshire, Franklin)
[]9. Plymouth District
[]10. Suffolk District
[]11. Worcester District

___ ___
51 52

OR

[]12. Dept of Correction Victim Services Unit
[]13. Parole Board Victim Services Unit
[]14. Other, please specify

Date that CORI Petition was approved by Criminal History Systems Board

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
53 54 55 56 57 58

Number of CORI subjects for this petitioner

___
59